

Sunday School House
111-113 Washington Street
Portsmouth
Rockingham County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-106

HABS
NH,
8-PORT,
148-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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8-PORT,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUSE

HABS No. NH-106

Location: 111-113 Washington Street, Portsmouth, Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

Present Owner: Kenneth V. MacDonald.

Present Occupant: Kenneth MacDonald and Elsie Jacobs.

Present Use: Dwelling house for two families (Demolished in 1963).

Significance: This building was erected to house the vault of the New Hampshire Union Bank after the bank was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1813. Later owned by South (Unitarian) Parish, and Pleasant Street Congregational Society.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1814.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners:

Wooden frame building, originally one story, clapboarded. Built by the New Hampshire Union Bank. Formerly stood on the corner of State and Pleasant Streets. Used as a temporary bank until it was purchased by Joseph Haven, local merchant, who presented it to the South Parish. It was removed in 1819 to Wentworth Street. 1828 sold to Pleasant Street Congregational Society and removed to Livermore Street. While on Wentworth Street it was used as a chapel and Sunday School Building. 1884 removed to Washington Street (its present location), half story added and made into a dwelling.

4. Builder, suppliers: President of New Hampshire Union Bank was Hunking Penhallow, who probably had charge of the building which was originally used to cover the vault after the first bank building was destroyed.
5. Original plans, construction: No plans extant.
6. Alterations and additions: In 1884 when the building was removed to Washington Street the half story was added, probably by Mr. Thomas H. Odiorne, who purchased the Pleasant Street Congregational Church and remodelled it into three tenements. On the map of Portsmouth in

1892, published in the Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire, D. H. Hurd & Co. of Boston, 1892. p. 154, this building is shown on Washington Street and called T. H. Odiorne Estate, as was the old Pleasant Street Congregational Society.

B. Historical Context:

Housed the New Hampshire Union Bank from 1814-1818. From 1818 to 1828 it served as the Sunday School Building and chapel for the South (Unitarian) Parish. It was said to have been the first building in Portsmouth used solely for Sunday School purposes. There had been Sunday School Rooms, but never a building before.

PART II. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Important Old Views:

Clipping from Portsmouth, New Hampshire Herald. Dec. 20, 1958 with story of house by Mrs. Marston Fenwick, and photograph of First Sunday School House.

B. Bibliography:

1. Secondary and published sources:

Gurney, Robert, Portsmouth Historic and Picturesque, Pub. by Gurney. Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 1902. p. 87; 113.

Peabody, A. P., Sermons Connected with the Reopening of the South Parish, containing history of the parish. Pub. by James Shores Jr., and Joseph Foster. Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 1859. p. 111.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

Old Portsmouth newspapers. 1813, 1814, 1818, 1828, 1884.

Probate Records. Probate Office, Exeter, New Hampshire.

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Assisted by: Mrs. Marston Fenwick, special
researcher
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